



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

SECRETARIAT- GENERAL

**PV(2001)1534 final**

Brussels, 12 September 2001

**MINUTES**  
**of the 1534th meeting of the Commission**  
**held in Strasbourg**  
**(Winston Churchill Building)**  
**on Tuesday 4 September 2001**  
**(afternoon)**

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These minutes were approved by the Commission at its 1535<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Brussels on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

They contain 14 pages.

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**Single sitting: Tuesday 4 September (afternoon)**

The sitting opened at 1325 hours with Mr Prodi, President, in the chair.

**Present:**

|                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Mr PRODI          | President      |
| Mr KINNOCK        | Vice-President |
| Ms de PALACIO     | Vice-President |
| Mr MONTI          |                |
| Mr FISCHLER       |                |
| Mr LIIKANEN       |                |
| Mr BOLKESTEIN     |                |
| Mr BUSQUIN        |                |
| Mr SOLBES         |                |
| Mr NIELSON        |                |
| Mr VERHEUGEN      |                |
| Mr PATTEN         |                |
| Mr LAMY           |                |
| Mr BYRNE          |                |
| Mr BARNIER        |                |
| Ms REDING         |                |
| Ms SCHREYER       |                |
| Ms WALLSTRÖM      |                |
| Mr VITORINO       |                |
| Ms DIAMANTOPOULOU |                |

**The following also sat in**

|               |                                         |                |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mr ROSAS      | Deputy Director-General, Legal Service  |                |
| Mr MANSERVISI | Chef de cabinet to the President        |                |
| Mr FAULL      | Commission Spokesman                    |                |
| Mr VERON      | Spokesman                               |                |
| Mr SCHINAS    | Deputy Chef de cabinet to Ms de Palacio |                |
| Mr MITEK      | Secretariat-General                     | Items 9 and 10 |

Secretary: Mr O'SULLIVAN, Secretary-General, assisted by Mr BISARRE, Director in the Secretariat-General.

**1. AGENDAS**

**(OJ(2001)1534/2; SEC(2001)1297/2)**

The Commission took note of the agenda for that day's meeting and of the tentative agendas for forthcoming meetings.

**2. WEEKLY MEETING OF CHEFS DE CABINET**

**(SEC(2001)1534)**

The Commission considered the Secretary-General's report on the weekly meeting of Chefs de cabinet held on Monday 3 September.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND SPECIAL MINUTES OF 1533rd MEETING (25 July)**

**(PV(2001)1533 and /2; PV(2001)1533, Part II and /2)**

In line with the arrangements agreed at the meeting in question, the Commission took note of the approval on 31 July of the minutes and special minutes of its 1533rd meeting.

**4. PARLIAMENT**

***PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS GROUP***

***(SP(2001)2897)***

The Commission took note of the record of the meeting of the Parliamentary Affairs Group of 31 August (SP(2001)2897).

Its attention was drawn to the following specific points:

**a) Preparations for September I part-session**

(point 2 of the record)

The Commission, in accordance with the rules in force, authorised the Commission Members responsible, in agreement with the PRESIDENT, Ms de PALACIO and any other Members associated, to take a position on Parliament's amendments to its proposals.

**b) Action taken on Parliament's opinions and resolutions**

(point 5 of the record)

The Commission adopted the replies to own-initiative resolutions adopted by Parliament to which the Commission had undertaken to reply (SP(2001)2676/2), for transmission to Parliament.

**5. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE**

**(SEC(2001)1363 to /3; SI(2001)897)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's reports on recent meetings of the Permanent Representatives Committee.

It paid particular attention to the following:

**5.1. *PREPARATIONS FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERIAL MEETING  
OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION (BALTIC SEA AREA  
CONVENTION)  
(COPENHAGEN, 10 SEPTEMBER)  
(SEC(2001)1363 to /3)***

The Commission approved the approach set out in SEC(2001)1363/2 and /3.

**5.2. REFORM OF THE COMMISSION: SPECIAL MEASURES TO  
TERMINATE THE SERVICE OF COMMISSION OFFICIALS  
(SI(2001)897)**

The Commission took note of the discussions in Coreper on 25 July and in particular the fact that the Presidency was considering a reduction in the percentage of the allowance proposed by the Commission.

In view of the concessions already accepted by the Commission on all the other aspects of this question, the Commission decided to maintain its proposal concerning the amount of the allowance, in order to preserve the effectiveness of the early retirement scheme.

**6. WRITTEN PROCEDURES AND EMPOWERMENT**

**6.1. WRITTEN PROCEDURES APPROVED  
(SEC(2001)1298 to /29; SEC(2001)1299 to /4)**

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted by written procedure between 23 July and 31 August.

**6.2. SENSITIVE WRITTEN PROCEDURES  
(SEC(2001)1301)**

The Commission took note of the following written procedures initiated between 23 July and 31 August for the adoption of decisions with political implications:

**Time limit: 03.09.2001**

**E/2001/1782 - SEC(2001)1342                      Justice and Home Affairs DG**

Communication to the Commission on the development of the Schengen Information System (SIS) II to be financed from the Community budget.

**Time limit: 05.09.2001**

**E/2001/1731 - COM(2001)500                      Research DG**

Proposal for a Parliament and Council decision concerning the rules for the participation of undertakings, research centres and universities and for the dissemination of research results for the implementation of the European Community framework programme (2002-06).

**Time limit: 07.09.2001**

**E/2001/1653 - C(2001)2503                      Environment DG**

Commission recommendation on guidelines for the implementation of Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).

**E/2001/1654 - C(2001)2504                      Environment DG**

Commission decision on guidelines for the implementation of Parliament and Council Regulation (EC) No 761/2001 allowing voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS).

**E/2001/1769 - C(2001)2591                      Environment DG**

Commission decision on the application by the Commission of the Community eco-management and audit scheme - EMAS.

### **6.3. EMPOWERMENT**

***(SEC(2001)1302 to /31; SEC(2001)1303 to /22; SEC(2001)1327)***

The Commission took note of the Secretariat-General's memoranda recording decisions adopted under the empowerment procedure between 23 July and 31 August.

## **7. ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY MATTERS**

**(SEC(2001)1304/3)**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

**(PERS(2001)253/3)**

#### ***7.1. EUROPEAID COOPERATION OFFICE - RESIGNATION OF AN A2 OFFICIAL***

On a proposal from Mr KINNOCK, in agreement with the PRESIDENT and Mr PATTEN, the Commission accepted the request to be retired submitted by Mr Jürgen SCHÜLER, A2 official, Director in the Europeaid Cooperation Office, and in accordance with Article 52 of the Staff Regulations it set the date from which this decision would take effect at 1 January 2002.

#### ***7.2. HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DG - PUBLICATION OF A1 POST OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL***

The Commission referred to the first publication of the A1 post of Deputy Director-General in the Health and Consumer Protection DG in November 2000.

In order to widen the range of possible candidates and take full account of the specific nature of this post, it authorised DG ADMIN to publish the post afresh at the internal, interinstitutional and external levels under

Article 29(1)(a), (1)(c) and (2) of the Staff Regulations, as set out in PERS(2000)344/3.

This decision would take effect immediately.

**8. COMMUNICATION ON A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR ENHANCED PARTNERSHIPS WITH ASIA  
(COM(2001)469 to /4)**

The Commission approved the communication in COM(2001)469/4 for transmission to Parliament, the Council and the Economic and Social Committee.

**9. TOWARDS A STRATEGIC VISION OF LIFE SCIENCES AND BIOTECHNOLOGY  
(COM(2001)454 to /6; SEC(2001)1318)**

The President introduced a communication, drawn up in agreement with Mr FISCHLER, Mr LIIKANEN, Mr BUSQUIN, Mr BYRNE and Ms WALLSTRÖM, *Towards a strategic vision of life sciences and biotechnology*, and a short interim report on the method and timetable for drawing up a Commission communication on this subject before the end of 2001.

The communication was presented in the form of a consultation document, and the action plan which the Commission had undertaken to draw up before the end of 2001 would be finalised only in the light of the results of this public consultation.

The consultation process would take place in several stages: initial contributions and replies to the questions raised should be provided by interested parties by

23 November, but the dialogue would continue beyond that date on the basis of the action plan the Commission would be presenting.

This was a concrete application of the principles of governance laid down in the July 2001 White Paper, with European citizens and interested parties being asked to take part directly in the drawing-up of Community policy and to help brief decision-makers before the adoption of policy guidelines.

Since the document raised fundamental questions, both as to the basic problems and challenges posed by biotechnologies, and as to the arrangements for organising the public debate, he proposed that the Commission hold a discussion on these two aspects.

In respect of the content of the document, particular emphasis was placed on the following points:

- the need to clarify, when the document was presented, the reasons why the Commission was tackling these problems at European level;
- a summary of the essential object of the exercise, which was to gather the opinions of the general public and all interested parties so as to clarify the subsequent decision-making process;
- the crucial importance of ethical questions which must be tackled ahead of economic and trade questions, while recognising that life sciences and biotechnology offered great potential for the development of European economies;
- the need to carry out an assessment of the beneficial effects of biotechnologies and to inform the general public of these, and to convince governments, industry and the scientific community to take part fully in process of restoring consumer confidence;

- the need for a scoreboard of the positions taken by the various Member States on these subjects, as well as the state of public opinion in the Member States.

As regards the arrangements for organising the public consultation, the following main points were raised:

- the need to make this consultation procedure a continuous process, before and after presentation by the Commission of its action plan at the end of 2001;
- the various possibilities for structuring the consultation (creation of a specific forum; involvement of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies set up in 1997; introduction of an "issues group"; setting-up of a group of Commission Members);
- the need to ensure communication between the European Group on Ethics and the existing equivalent national bodies in the Member States.

Following this discussion, the PRESIDENT noted that there was broad agreement on the text of the consultation document and on the general approach for the consultation process.

He therefore proposed launching the public consultation on the basis of the document as it stood while keeping in mind, with an eye to making use of the replies to the consultation and the drawing-up of the action plan, the various concerns expressed in the debate, as regards both the emphasis to be placed on certain specific aspects, and the various ways of structuring the consultation and the use to be made of its results.

The Commission therefore:

- took note of the interim report in COM(2001)454/3;
- approved the communication in COM(2001)454/6 for transmission to Parliament, the Council, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, and to launch the consultation process on this basis.

## **10. RELATIONS WITH NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES**

### ***WTO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE IN DOHA (MEXICO CITY, 31 AUGUST AND 1 SEPTEMBER)***

Mr LAMY reported on the meeting of Trade Ministers of certain WTO member countries held in Mexico City, on the initiative of the Mexican Government, on 31 August and 1 September.

The participants had been a representative sample of the various categories of WTO member countries (17 in total plus the Community representative).

The meeting had sketched out certain areas of agreement on the subjects to be dealt with at the Doha conference (agriculture, environment, implementing rules, investment, competition, anti-dumping) as well as on the content of these subjects.

The Commission held an exchange of views on certain specific subjects and on the positions taken by certain participants.

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The meeting closed at 1545 hours.